

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7718

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14858

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINTS, IT

SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI TESTIMONY IN PARLIAMENT ON PAST COUP ATTEMPTS

1. IN LONG AWAITED TESTIMONY BEFORE CHAMBER OF DUPUTIES DEFENSE COMMISSION OCTOBER 24, DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI OULINED WORK OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SID) IN COMBATTING RIGHT WING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES STRETCHING BACK TO DECEMBER 1970 "BORGHESE COUP" ATTEMPT. ANDREOTTI CONFIRMED SERIOUSNESS OF 1970 THREAT BY PRINCE BORGHESE'S NATIONAL FRONT GROUP AND STATED THAT THREAT FROM RIGHT WING PLOTTERS STILL EXISTS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED EXISTENCE OF MID-AUGUST PLOT THIS YEAR WHICH LED TO "NECESSARY MEASURES" BEING TAKEN BY SECURITY FORCES. (NOTE: EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON THIS, NOR WERE COUP RUMORS PICKED UP BY PRESS AT THE TIME.) ANDREOTTI ALSO MENTIONED SID REPORT SENT TO MAGISTRACY OCTOBER 1 REPORTING ON POSSIBLE PLOT TO CREATE CHAOTIC SITUATION BY POLLUTING WATER SUPPLIES WITH RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.

2.COMMENT: FOLLOWING SEVERAL WEEKS OF SENSATIONAL PRESS REPORTS ON ALLEGED CONTENTS OF SID DISSIER (REFTEL) AND SPECULATION ON POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS FOR ANDREOTTI ACTIONS, ANDREOTTI SPEECH WAS ANTI-CLIMAX. NOT ONLY DID DEFENSE MINISTER DEFEND ACTIONS OF HIS PREDECESSOR (TANASSI) BUT HE ALSO AVOIDED OPEN ATTACK ON FORMER SID CHIEF MICELI. USUALLY WELL INFORMED DC SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT ANDREOTTI
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MAY WELL SHIFT INVESTIGATION OF MECELI (CURRENTLY CHARGED

WITH WITHHOLDING EVIDENCE AND POLITICAL CONSPIRACY) FROM
CIVIL TO MILITARY JUDICIAL SYSTEM. PURPOSE OF THIS MOVE
WOULD BE TO PLACATE SOME MILITARY LEADERS WHO, ACCORDING TO
OUR SOURCE, ARE CONCERNED THAT CIVIL PROCEEDINGS COULD RESULT
IN REVELATION OF SENSITIVE MATERIAL KNOWN TO MICELI. VOLPE

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